above the poverty line in different areas.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the improvement in the status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is one of the highest concerns of the Government and that is why I said in my answer to earlier questions that in the Seventh Plan specific subsectors have been chosen so that it reaches to the real beneficiaries who need it most, i.e., priorities are decided in which the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes portions are being taken into consideration. So far as the other sampling, i.e. specific sampling is concerned, the National Sample Survey gives special instructions for finding out the poverty line specially for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, there is something seriously wrong with the system adopted by the Government. We have a number of schemes aimed at bringing the people above the poverty line. Unless we have the statistics of the particular households village-wise or mandal-wise or taluka-wise, I do not know how they will give these benefits to those sections. You can have sample surveys for the affluent how many buildings he has, how many floors the has built, how many cars he has etc. but for poverty to have a sample survey is the most unscientific thing to do. Will the Minister kindly consider revising the whole thing? He can take the help of the State Governments to have the house to house survey done, identify the families and try to bring them up above poverty line.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, as I answered earlier, this is at present the best method available to the economists today. But a house to house search like the census for the purpose of ascertaining the poverty line, whether this is feasible or not, I will have to consider this and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Sir, just now the Minister stated that to fix the targets in order to bring the people above the poverty line is being discussed with the State Government during the Seventh Plan period. But the Seventh Plan has already been cleared by the NDC. Then, which Seventh Plan is he talking about? Under which Seventh Plan is he going to consider it?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I think I could not make myself clear to the hon. Member. I said that the question of fixing the targets for the States, whether that is possible and whether that will be beneficial, is being discussed in the Planning Commission and not with the States. We are discussing what infrastructure would be required, how much money would be required and whether this duty could be given to the States for finding out householdwise or each house-wise line.

दिल्ली में ताप बिजली घरों से कारण होने वाल प्रदूषण

*156. श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी†
श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 अक्तूबर, 1985 के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि

† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी द्वारा पूछा गया ।

पर्यावरण विभाग के भूतपूर्व सचिव श्री टी० एन० खोशू ने कहा कि दिल्ली के ताप बिजली घरों द्वारा फैलाए जा रहे प्रदूषण के कारण दिल्ली में तेजाबी वर्षा की जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हो सकती है ;

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) तेजाबी वर्षा होने की स्थिति में नगरों, ग्रामों तथा वनों को किस-किस प्रकार की हानि होने की आशंका है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री जेड० आर० अंसारी) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग के अनुसार विभिन्न स्थानों पर दर्ज किये गये आंकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि देश में अम्लीय वर्षा समस्या का कोई साक्ष्य नहीं है।

(ग) अम्लीय वर्षा इमारतों और स्मारकों का अपघर्षण करती है, कृषि उपज और वन वृद्धि को कम करती है तथा जलाशयों पर भी बुरा प्रभाव डालती है।

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there is no possibility of any acid rain. I have gone by the statement made by the former secretary in the department of environment, who has hinted at this danger. But this is certainly a fact that because of the thermal plants Delhi has become one of the most polluted cities in the world. What remedial steps have been taken to cure this pollution and to save Delhi from its effects?

SHRI J. K. JAIN: Are you talking of environmental pollution or political pollution?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I have not said that there is no possibility; I have only said that so far as the meteorological department is concerned, there is no evidence of acid rain. There is possibility; no one can assess it; with the advancement of the country and with more industries coming up, something may happen; we cannot say about the possibility. I only said that at present, there is no evidence of acid rain.

The specific question which the hon. Member posed is regarding air pollution because of thermal power stations. We have given directions to all the thermal power stations to have electrostatic precipitators. They have installed these precipitators but unfortunately some of them are not working. Main problem for these thermal power stations is not the sulphur dioxide; it is there. The main problem is of emitting more ash; ash content which is thrown in the air is more, and we are looking into it and we are forcing these power plants to instal electrostatic precipitators.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: But they are not working. That is the answer. Recently, a citizens group has produced an excellent report on the State of environment and which I believe the Prime Minister has commended and sent to all the districts in the country. Several remedial measures have been suggested in that report. It has been pointed out that firstly it is the thermal plants, and secondly, the automobiles in the city, particularly the DTC buses, the trucks and all that which are to blame. Are any steps being taken by the Government to see that this situation is checked and controlled because this goes on unabated despite all these good and excellent reports The country is worried about it.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: It is true that pollution is created by these automobiles in Delhi, which is 40 per cent, and 60 per cent of it is from industries including thermal power stations. This is the main problem and we are taking steps. Certain steps have to be taken by amending laws

and enforcing minimum standards. As far as thermal power stations are concerned, some of the electrostatic precipitators installed are not working. Steps are being taken to change them and see that the ash does not pollute the atmosphere.

SHRI R. MOHANRANGAM: That is enough.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Has the Government any policy on the matter so far as the location and expansion of thermal power stations are concerned. The citizens committee for protection of Bombay City had protested about location of these plants within the city. In spite of that, the thermal power station of 500 MW capacity is located there and further expansion of this plant for 500 MW is going on. There is no reason why a thermal power station should be located in the city itself. The main problem being faced is in Vidarbha where there are large number of such stations. Not only there is pollution, but even the coal dust affects the community and the workers staying there and anti-pollution measures are not being enforced. May I know what is his concept of acid rain and when it occurs, and what is the percentage of pollution?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: I could not follow the first part.

SHRI S. W DHABE: What is the policy of the Government about location of thermal power stations so that the question of pollution does not arise. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister: what is the concept of acid rain, how much percentage of pollution takes place from the fumes and acid dust....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhabe, if you put a very long question, they forget it. You should, therefore, put short questions.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: If the hon Member is interested to know about ....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The main question is, what is the policy with regard to location of thermal power plants?

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I would like to know whether they took permission before setting up this plant.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The policy of the Government is not to allow the thermal power plants in the cities where they can pollute the atmosphere. This is the present policy. The project which has been cleared in Bombay is based on non-polluting fuel gas. It is not theraml power ...

SHRI S. W. DHABE: It is a thermal power plant, set up by the Tatas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhabe, the point which the hon. Minister is making is, so far as Bombay is concerned, it is not coal; it is fuel oil.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: It is a thermal power station, using the coal brought from our area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not heard the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: What is acid rain? The hon. Minister should enlighten the House about this also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both of you are talking at the same time and you do not understand each other.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I would also like to ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us first dissolve this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It would not be dissolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This pollution has to be dissolved.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The policy of the Government is, only those thermal power stations are cleared, which do not pollute the atmosphere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not pollute the atmosphere further. Mr. Jaswant Singh.

श्री जसवंत सिंह : मान्यवर, मेरे दो छोटे से सवाल हैं। पहला, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली के पावर स्टेशनों पर कितने प्रिसिपिटेटर लगे, कितने उनमें से काम कर रहे हैं और कितने काम नहीं कर रहे हैं।

दूसरा प्रश्न मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि बम्बई में ऐसा सुनने में आया है कि बम्बई में गाड़ियों पर पाबंदी लगी है। डैसू के जो प्रबंधक हैं, उन्होंने यह सुझाव दिया है कि दिल्ली में भी गाड़ियों पर पाबंदी लगाई जाए ताकि जो धुआं देती हैं, उनकी रोकथाम की जा सके। क्या दिल्ली में यह कार्यवाही की जाएगी? नहीं तो अब तक क्यों नहीं कि गई? और क्या प्रिसिपिटेटर लगे हैं और गाड़ियों पर रोक लगी है, ये मेरे दो सवाल हैं।

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, as far as the precipitators are concerned, as I have already said, most of these thermal power plants are required to instal these electrostatic precipitators. They have installed them. But some of them, because of...

श्री जसवंत सिंह : कितने? (व्यवधान)

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We have to depend upon the machinery....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is very simple. How many of them have been installed and how many of them are working? You please first answer that point.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, actually, it is not this Ministry which instals these electrostatic precipitators. We just give directions to the...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Environment does not deal with it. Energy deals with it.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We only give directions to the Energy Ministry in regard to installation of these electrostatic precipitators.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Sir, you should instruct the Minister that he should come prepared.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: No further supplementaries on compassionate grounds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: My question is entirely non-technical. Pollution being caused by the thermal power plants in Delhi is a reality and it is a great hazard. I used to live at 7, Purana Qila Road, which is now occupied by Shri Sitaram Kesri. I used to have a highly pedigree dog. The dog used to go and sit on the terrace which would have layers of ash coming up. One day the dog developed serious lung trouble, fell ill and died. The doctor said, this was due to the dog inhaling the ash which was there on the terrace. May I, therefore, ask the Minister whether or not he will take adequate care to ensure that 7, Purana Qila Road and the area round about is protected from the ash? Obviously, Sir, precipitators are not working.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The problem is, what we can do is just to give directions to these thermal power stations for installing electrostatic precipitators which are only the instruments to control pollution. In all the thermal power stations electrostatic precipitators have been installed, but some...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: What about dogs?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Some of these electrostatic precipitators are not working. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Leave him on compassionate grounds.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The question is that steps are being taken by

DESU and NTPC to replace those electrostatic precipitators which are not working.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now understand why Shri Sitaram Kesri has been given this house. They all wanted to choke him.

Next Qeustion.

*157. [*The questioner (Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal) was absent. For answer vide cols. 40-41 infra.*]

Cleaning of Ganga

*158. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what financial and technical assistance has been sought, negotiated, provided or assured by foreign Governments in the project for cleaning Ganga; and

(b) what is the present status of these various foreign collaborations for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) the Government on its own has not sought technical or financial assistance from any foreign Government for this project. However, offers of assistance from France, United Kingdom, and Netherlands have been received.

(b) These offers are under consideration of the Government.

SRRI JASWANT SINGH: I would request the Minister to be very brief in his reply because only 5 minutes are left.

Sir, let the Ganga be cleaned, it is a welcome measure and no one in the country will find fault with that proposition, but I am somewhat intrigued by the Minister's suggestion that without seeking any assistance for cleaning of the Ganga water we are being flooded, as it were, by foreign offers. Why should this profane wish to come to the Holy without our asking for it? It is something which I am unable to understand. Therefore, would the Minister clarify, firstly, what criteria pre-requisites yardsticks will the Government of India establish before actually going about awarding the contract of cleaning the Ganga?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Our position is quite clear. We have a project to clean Ganga and whatever expertise, technical know-how and resources are available with us, we shall go ahead with those resources and the technical know-how. But in such a big project if the world takes interest, or the countries with which we have bilateral relations show their interest— World Bank the U.K. which is one of the Commonwealth countries, the Netherlands with which we have bilateral relations and other countries like France—in those areas where we find that the technical know-how available there is superior and can get things done in a quicker manner and in a more beneficial manner, we shall certainly accept those offers of cource after evaluating the assistance which they want to provide and also after assessing our own capabilities to what extent we are capable, financially and otherwise, to go on with some projects without any assistance.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Well, Sir, he has attempted to give the criteria. Mr. Chairman, the impression that I have gathered from the hon. Minister's reply is not the impression which is otherwise prevailing. The impression is that the 'French' the British and the Dutch are falling over themselves to clean the